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In the Claims

1.   (currently amended) A method of securely connecting a plurality of client computers to computer resources in a shared computer system, comprising:

5   associating each of said plurality of client computers with at least one virtual private network connection, wherein said plurality of client computers are remotely connected to at least one virtual private network termination device in said shared computer

10   system, said shared computer system comprising an application service provider, and wherein said at least one virtual private network connection is established by said at least one virtual private network termination device;

15   associating said at least one virtual private network connections with a plurality of virtual local area networks; and

          associating at least one of said computer resources in said shared computer system with each of said

20   plurality of virtual local area networks, whereby a domain for each of said plurality of client computers is extended to include said computer resources in said application service provider and said plurality of client computer domains are isolated from each other within said

25   application service provider.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of said at least one virtual private network connections is uniquely associated with one of said plurality of virtual local area networks, so that a one to one correspondence exists between

30   said at least one virtual private network connection and said plurality of virtual local area networks.

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3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of said at least one virtual private network connections is uniquely associated with one of said plurality of virtual local area networks.

5 4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising a configuration engine in said shared computer system configuring at least one virtual local area network switch to establish said plurality of virtual local area networks.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising a
10 configuration engine in said shared computer system configuring said at least one virtual private network termination device to establish said at least one virtual private network connection.

6. (original) The method of claim 4, further comprising
15 said configuration engine reading computer requirements from at least one client.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, further comprising said configuration engine calculating an optimum allocation of said plurality of computer resources to meet said computer
20 requirements of said at least one client.

8. (original) The method of claim 4, further comprising said configuration engine configuring said at least one virtual local area network switch to connect at least two of said plurality of client computers to a same one of said
25 plurality of virtual local area networks.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of client computers is connected to said

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shared computer system across a dedicated line.

10.   (original)   The method of claim 1, wherein at least one
of said plurality of client computers is connected to said
shared computer system across the Internet.

5   11.   (original)   The method of claim 10, wherein at least one
of said plurality of client computers is connected to said
shared computer system with a modem.

12.   (original)   The method of claim 10, wherein at least one
of said plurality of client computers is connected to said
10   shared computer system with a broadband connection.

13.   (original)   The method of claim 1, said shared computer
system further comprising computer readable program code for
authenticating client computer identification, said method
further comprising executing said computer readable program
15   code to authenticate client computer identification before
associating each of said plurality of client computers with at
least one virtual private network connection.

14.   (original)   The method of claim 1, said shared computer
system further comprising at least one firewall, said method
20   further comprising configuring said at least one firewall to
accept data from each of said plurality of client computers.

15.   (original)   The method of claim 14, further comprising a
configuration engine in said shared computer system
configuring said at least one firewall to accept data from
25   each of said plurality of client computers.

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16.   (original) A secure computer system, comprising:
                   a plurality of computer resources;
                   at least one virtual local area network switch
           electrically connected to said plurality of computer
5   resources;
                   at least one virtual private network termination
           device electrically connected to said at least one
           virtual local area network switch, wherein said at least
           one virtual local area network switch is configurable to
10   changeably connect a plurality of virtual private network
           connections in said at least one virtual private network
           termination device to at least one of said plurality of
           computer resources while isolating said plurality of
           virtual private network connections from one another; and
15   a configuration engine electrically connected to
           said at least one virtual local area network switch, said
           configuration engine comprising computer readable program
           code for configuring said at least one virtual local area
           network switch to changeably connect each of said
20   plurality of virtual private network connections to at
           least one of said plurality of computer resources while
           isolating said plurality of virtual private network
           connections from one another.

17.   (original) The secure computer system of claim 16,
25   wherein said computer readable program code in said
       configuration engine further comprises code for a graphical
       user interface to manually configure said virtual local area
       network switch.

18.   (original) The secure computer system of claim 16,
30   wherein said computer readable program code in said
       configuration engine further comprises code for automatically

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configuring said virtual local area network switch.

19.   (original)   The secure computer system of claim 16,
wherein said computer readable program code in said
configuration engine further comprises code for reading client
5   computer requirements across said plurality of virtual private
network connections.

20.   (original)   The secure computer system of claim 16,
further comprising at least one firewall connected to said
plurality of virtual private network connections.

10   21.   (original)   The secure computer system of claim 16,
further comprising computer readable program code for
authenticating identification of client computers connected to
said plurality of virtual private network connections.

22.   (currently amended)   A secure computer system,
15   comprising:
        a plurality of computer resources within an
application service provider;
        means for securely connecting each of a plurality of
        client computers to a portion of said plurality of
20   computer resources in said application service provider
        while isolating said portion of said plurality of
        computer resources from a second portion of said
        plurality of computer resources.

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